

CLAIMS:-

1. A safety razor comprising a blade unit (2) including a guard and at least one blade (6), and a handle (1) mounting the blade unit for pivotal movement in one direction only from a rest position, characterised in that the pivot axis (C) underlies the guard surface (10) as seen in a direction normal to a plane (P) containing the guard surface (10) and the blade edge (12) adjacent thereto.
2. A razor according to claim 1, wherein, when the blade unit is in the rest position, the handle is located entirely forwardly of a plane containing the leading blade edge (12) and perpendicular to said plane (P) containing the guard surface and adjacent blade edge.
3. A razor according to claim 1, wherein, when the blade unit is in the rest position, the handle is located entirely forwardly of a plane containing the trailing edge of the guard surface (10) and perpendicular to said plane (P) containing the guard surface and adjacent blade edge.
4. A razor according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the blade unit (2) is pivotable through an angle in the range of 35° to 50° preferably 40° to 45° from the rest position.
5. A razor according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein, when the blade unit is in the rest position, said plane (P) containing the guard surface and the adjacent blade edge lies at an angle of 20° to 30° to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

6. A razor according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the pivot axis (C) is from 1.0 to 2.0 mm in front of the leading blade edge (12), measured in said plane (P) containing the guard surface and blade edge.

7. A razor according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the pivot axis (C) is 0.50 to 1.00 mm below the guard surface.

8. A safety razor comprising a blade unit (2), and a handle (1) supporting the blade unit for pivotal movement from a rest position, the handle being connected to the blade unit by a pair of opposed connection pieces (20) engaging the blade unit at the respective ends thereof, characterised in that said connection pieces (20) are urged resiliently into abutment with cam faces (16) on the blade unit (2) whereby to oppose displacement of the blade from the rest position and to apply a restoring force for returning the blade unit to the rest position.

9. A razor according to claim 8, wherein the handle has a pair of wings (20; 30) with tips forming the connection pieces and biased apart by the wings.

10. A razor according to claim 9, wherein the wing tips comprise pivot elements (26) engaged with complementary means (18) on the blade unit to define a fixed pivot axis (C) for the blade unit.

11. A razor according to claim 10, wherein the pivot elements are stud axles (26) engaged in complementary apertures (18) in the blade unit.

12. A razor according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the pivot element (16) of each tip is located adjacent to and projects beyond an edge surface (28) in contact with the blade unit cam face.

13. A razor according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the wing tips are received in respective sockets (14) at the ends of the blade unit, the sockets having front and rear stop faces for abutment with the tips to limit the pivotal movement of the blade unit.

14. A razor according to any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein the wings (20) are hinged to the handle and acted upon by spring means (24) to urge the tips apart.

15. A razor according to any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein the wings (30) are resilient and serve as spring means to urge the tips apart.

16. A razor according to claim 15 wherein the wings (30) are integral with the handle.

17. A razor according to any one of claims 9 to 16, wherein the blade unit (2) is detachable from the handle by squeezing the wings together to disengage the wing tips (26) from the blade unit.